Methodist Peace Courier

Published by the
BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS
Subscription of ten issues—$1.00

Editorial Board:
Charles F. Boss (N.Y.)
Daniel E. Taylor
Carl D. Soule
Herman Will, Jr.
Ellen Lund

III, No. 3 Published monthly September through June SEPTEMBER, 1957

RECEIVED
OCT 3 1957
DREW UNIV. LIBRARY
MADISON, NEW JERSEY

10,000 MILES UNDER THE SOVIET STAR

by

Charles F. Boss

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics embraces a vast territory, approximately three times the land area of the United States. n it are fifteen Soviet Socialist Republics in addition to Russia—the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic—the Es-, Latvian, Lithuanian, Byelo or White Russian, Ukraine, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaydzhan, Kazakh, Turkmen, Uzbek, iz, Tadzhik, Moldavian, and Karelo-Finnish.

the original agreement on the membership of the United Nations, three of these are members of the United Nations—Russia, ne and Byelorussia. Our travel this summer took us into the Republics of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhistan, Uzbekistan, ian and Tadzhik. We traveled by trains, ships and planes. Within cities and rural areas, we used buses. Also, we "hoofed it" miles each day. We visited in the order named: Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Yalta, Sochi (two Californians said Sochi was the beautiful place they had ever seen), Tbilisi, Kharkov, and Moscow. Then from Moscow we flew over 2,000 miles across the Mountains to Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakh, S.S.R.

m Alma Ata we looked up to the Divide of the Pamir Mountains, which separates the U.S.S.R. and Sinkiang, China. Due lies New Delhi. Around this southeastern corner of the Soviet Union are grouped in addition to Sinkiang, Tibet, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Jammu.

lowing our program in Alma Ata, we flew in succession for programs in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Stalinabad. Stalinabad ver the mountain range due north of Kabul, Afghanistan. On its northeast border lies K-2, the second highest peak in the layas, 28,250 feet in altitude. In some respects these southeastern Soviet Republics were populated by the most colorful and esting peoples visited.

ile our observations led to the judgment that standards of living in the U.S.S.R. are, on the average, still far below those of Jnited States, the friendly attitude and good conduct of the people impressed us. On the whole they appeared happy and be- their situations are improving steadily. Everywhere we went we found expressions of genuine friendliness toward the Amer- group—and America. To my knowledge, we encountered no real discourtesy. On the contrary, people expressed their deep de- for world peace and cooperation with the United States. True, they did not discuss very much the political situation, but did questions concerning published reports. Our precise and incisive questions on local, city, and Republic political organizations bring out some sharp differences in our views on the political state and nature of political freedom.

ce I had previously visited the Soviet Union in 1937 and 1955, it is now possible to note even greater changes. There are mod- ions not only in the method of supervision of industry economic life, but also the operations of the political struc- from within. Evidences pointed to the fact that both in rnment and among the people generally, world war is ed upon as a form of international insanity. Expressions ng the people, and in the interview with Krushchev, indi- their convictions that war could mean only great tragedy all engaged in it. Within the Kremlin we were told that would offer no good results for the Soviet Union, nor, believed, for the United States. For that reason, hope con- ed that differences between East and West will be resolved, that a peaceful *modus vivendi* will be developed within h, it is anticipated, economic competition will continue.

is our expectation that other articles will bring specific rmation concerning the common life of the people, includ- encouraging facts concerning the continuing expansion of rches and membership with the Soviet Union. Soviet and erican policy seem to have developed to the point where ncreasing number of various forms of exchange, resulting rther relaxation of tensions, is possible.

COUNCIL COUNSEL

"The peoples of the world have been visited by a new fear. They are moved, indeed deeply alarmed, by current tests of nuclear weapons. These to them appear to be a portent of shadow of world conflict. At the very least, these tests seem to them to carry a potential and grave menace to health. . . . Tests are taken to be a visible sign of preparations for atomic warfare. Vast areas could be depopulated by the owners of destruction now available and the dangers of fallout be multiplied a thousandfold. The main concern must always be the prevention of war itself, for the evil of war is an offense to the spiritual nature of man. But since any war carries increasing danger of becoming an atomic war, this task makes the prevention of atomic war, which shocks the conscience of mankind with a peculiar repugnance, all the more imperative."

World Council of Churches
August 5, 1957

Copied from original in

Drew University Library
Madison, N.J. 07940

Not to be reproduced or published
without permission

CONGRESS WAITS ON THE PEW

Some pertinent paragraphs for preachers, from MUTUAL SECURITY ACT OF 1957—HEARINGS BEFORE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PART II (Ask your Congressman to send you a copy of this report of the testimony of churchmen on foreign aid with the comments of Congressmen.)

"You (church leaders) are helpful to us, but your primary task . . . is to get these concepts across to the people who sit in your pews week after week . . . I know that some of my Protestant brethren like nothing better than to pass resolutions . . . , asking the Congress as a public body to act on a moral basis which they have not been able to persuade their own parishioners to accept and act on although the latter are exposed to them perhaps fifty-two times a year.

"We are not able to operate . . . solely in terms of humanity and unselfish moral obligation when we are acting as representatives of government with other people's funds. . . . You will find the Congressmen willing to go along if they are convinced that a majority of the people whose views they try to reflect . . . also are aware of and understand the moral obligations and want their Congressmen to carry out those moral obligations . . . I think the religious forces ought to help the general public understand this difference."

CONGRESSMAN WALTER H. JUDD
(*Minnesota*)

THE COMING UN ASSEMBLY

Hungary

A special session of the United Nations General Assembly has been called for September 10 to consider the report of its Committee on Hungary. This report determined (1) that the revolt last October was a spontaneous national uprising, (2) that the Soviet Union intervened with its military forces twice without invitation from the legal Hungarian government, first to crush the uprising, and then to overthrow the Government itself, and (3) that Premier Imre Nagy had general popular support while Janos Kádár, who was put in power by Soviet intervention, did not have the approval of the people. If the special session does not complete discussion and action on the report before the Twelfth General Assembly opens (September 17), the matter will no doubt be given a high priority on the regular agenda.

Algeria

The Arab-Asian group of nations will press the General Assembly to take some definite action in regard to Algeria. France is anticipating this by setting forth a plan for a revamping of Algeria's governmental structure with provision for a limited amount of local autonomy. It is doubtful that any proposals the present French government and its governor-general are likely to make will be acceptable to the Algerian nationalists.

Red China

The perennial issue of whether to seat Communist China in the UN General Assembly will raise the question of U. S. policy in this regard. All present signs indicate that the State Department will try once more to marshal enough votes to block this move despite growing support for it among UN members. There has been a noticeable shift in American public opinion on this issue but to date it has not been sufficient to change government policy.

Disarmament

The Disarmament Commission will make a report to the General Assembly on the progress of its deliberations. News of its subcommittee discussions has been alternately encouraging and discouraging so that it is impossible to predict their outcome. There is real ground for hope in that both the Soviet Union and the western powers have demonstrated real interest in reaching an agreement, and the gap between their views has gradually narrowed.

ATOM ITEMS

Representative Charles Porter, from Eugene, Oregon, has introduced in Congress the first resolution dealing with a ban on nuclear weapons testing: H. R. 8269 *A Bill to prohibit further testing by explosion of nuclear devices so long as all other countries refrain from exploding such devices.* An international agreement to end further testing of hydrogen bombs has been urged by Senators Mike Mansfield, Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Neuberger, and Wayne Morse.

THE EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, published by the Department of Defense, is a nearly 600-page summary of current knowledge on the effects of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The *New York Times* described it as "a new and sobering primer on the atomic age"; the *Christian Century* hoped "a million Americans will order it." (Commissions on Christian Social Relations: Order a copy at $2.00 from the Supt. of Documents, Washington 25, D.C., and urge your local public library to purchase a copy.)

Write your Congressman or Senator for the report of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy hearings, THE NATURE OF RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT AND ITS EFFECTS ON MAN.

And order from the Board of World Peace the *Saturday Review* reprint of "The Schweitzer Declaration."

With comment by Norman Cousins	5¢ each
With additional articles by scientists Dr. Willard Libby, Harrison Brown, and John Lear	10¢ each

This office has already distributed over 1,200 copies of this Schweitzer reprint.

The Friends Committee on Legislation, 1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco 15, Calif., has a 16-page pamphlet "Questions and Answers about Nuclear Tests," the first *pamphlet* produced in the U. S. on the scientific hazards of radioactive fallout.

10¢ a copy; 12 for $1.00; 100 for $7.00

A UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCE?

From Clarence Poe, a Raleigh, North Carolina, layman who is senior editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, we received a copy of a circular letter from President Murray D. Lincoln of the Cooperative League of the USA, who is also president of C.A.R.E. Mr. Poe, incidentally, is the author of the article "What Can We Do to Save World Peace?" of which we distributed 5,000 copies.

We share Mr. Poe's interest in the Lincoln proposal and pass it on, somewhat abridged, to our readers. We'd like to hear what you think of it.

"I suppose that every one of us has dreamed, at one time or another, of a universal peace army—which would help all countries keep peace together instead of making war separately . . . [Today] the United Nations Emergency Force is real and it is sort of a beginning for an international army. And because of UNEF's reality, the old dream takes on flesh . . . UNEF . . . is credited by everyone with helping both the Arabs and the Israelis to keep from getting tense all over again. On UNEF's record, it seems to me fair to speculate that a small force can be useful as an instrument in preventing fighting in many other places besides the Middle East. That kind of instrument would be an army, although more symbolic than real. Its force would lie not in large manpower or bombs but in the fact that all nations support it. Its chief weapon would be world public opinion and not fission or fusion.

". . . Based directly on UNEF's experiences, maybe we can figure out how to put together a UN force which can go into action to police unsettled frontiers, . . . and so bring quiet to . . . unsettled areas. That might not be peacemaking in the big sense but it would help produce the calmer atmosphere which is so essential to working out peaceful solutions."

Copied from original in

Drew University Library
Madison, N.J. 07940

Not to be reproduced or published
without permission

PEACE WORK IN THE FALL

ll is the time of harvest. It is also the time of the year
there is a concentration of days and weeks related to
d peace. In the case of peace observances, it "just hap-
d" this way, for the Charter of the UN became effective on
ber 24, 1945 and the Declaration of Human Rights was
ed on December 10, 1948. Halloween, now related to
CEF, falls on October 31.

ommission on Christian Social Relations

you are a pastor, you will wish to keep these dates in
l because of their significance for the content of your
ons. But the promotion of world peace in our churches
nds not only upon preaching but also upon the work of
en organized into a Commission on Christian Social Rela-
. The 1956 General Conference gave Methodist churches
opportunity to establish
groups with responsibility
lealing with all issues with
h the national boards of
perance, World Peace, and
al and Economic Relations
concerned.

ne reasons for such a com-
ion are obvious to many
ors and laymen: (1) It
es as a channel for social
ation and action. (2) It
es all groups in the church
is not related only to men
vomen or youth. (3) Such
mmission diminishes over-
hasis of any one issue and
lops a rounded approach.
It faces the fact that there
uch overlapping in social
n. (5) A circuit pastor with
ral churches will find it
r to meet with one com-
ion in a church than with
e committees.

its meeting early in Sep-
er the Commission on
stian Social Relations
ld make its plans for Sep-
er, October, November,
December. It should decide
observances it wishes to
hasize.

rely variety is the spice of life and there should be no
otyped approach. At the suggestion of the Commission the
dren's department of the Church school, in cooperation
the Children's Work Secretary of the Woman's Society,
take responsibility for "The Trick is to Treat for UNICEF"
lalloween time. Methodist Men in their November or De-
ber meeting may have a program of interpretation of the
laration of Human Rights. United Nations Week may be
noted by the pastor through the ministerial association or
he Woman's Society through United Church Women.

cial Board Meeting

ficial Board meetings are opportunities for reporting and
rpreting the work of the Commission. In the September
ting the chairman may speak about the foreign aid hearings
Congress this spring. In October he may spend five minutes
he 12th Assembly of the United Nations, using the October
e of the COURIER and the booklet *Issues Before the 12th*
mbly. In November he may describe the current situation
ive to disarmament. In December he may pass out free
copies of the Declaration of Human Rights and call attention to several paragraphs therein.

World-wide Communion Sunday

On this Sunday we celebrate the unity which all Christians have in Christ. Is there, by chance, a displaced person or refugee in your community who has been brought to this country with the help of the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief? He might be used some way in the worship service. The same principle would apply to foreign students in your midst.

Our sense of fellowship on this day is largely with the churches of the *West* and of those nations which have received our missionaries. We also need fellowship with the churches of the *East*, with the Orthodox Christians and Baptists in the Soviet Union. On this Sunday the Commission might sponsor the sale of *American Churchmen Visit the Soviet Union*, an excellent report of the profound conversations by American Protestant leaders with Russian churchmen a year ago. It may be obtained from the Board of World Peace for 50¢ a copy.

United Nations Day and Week

October 24, 1957 is the 12th birthday of the United Nations, which The Methodist Church has officially called "our best political hope for peace." The week of October 20 to 26 is United Nations Week, observed to some degree in eighty-one nations of the world. An increasing number of communities are using this week for celebrations of many types. If you would like a motion picture of a Texas town's observance, write to Joe Salem, Sudan, Texas.

The U. S. Committee for the United Nations, 816 21st St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C., has an excellent packet of materials (a contribution of $1.00 to help defray costs is appreciated), containing such items as "UN Audit—What the UN costs each American per year," a copy of the World Health Organization Newsletter, a Photoquiz on UN people and places, a Leader's Guide for UN observances, and an attractive flag-flowered UN poster, 12 by 15 inches.

World Order Sunday

To avoid conflict with Laymen's Day, the 1956 General Conference designated the Sunday before November 11, November 10 this year, as World Order Sunday. Your church can observe this day in several ways: (1) the pastor may preach on an appropriate theme. (2) The chairman of the Commission and other members may assist in the service. (3) Literature about the UN may be sold after the service. (4) A discussion of the sermon theme may be held in an educational room following the service, making the sermon even more meaningful.

It is important that your Commission meet in September, make its plans for the Fall, and order literature, preferably before October 1. If you do not do this, supplies may be exhausted or materials will arrive too late.

And don't overlook the METHODIST PEACE COURIER! Every Church Christian Social Relations Commission should have at least one subscription.

METHODIST PEACE CALENDAR
Fall 1957

September 17	Opening of 12th UN Assembly
October 6	World-wide Communion Sunday
October 20-26	United Nations Week
October 24	United Nations Day
October 31	Halloween . . . "The Trick is to Treat for UNICEF"
November 10	World Order Sunday
December 10	Human Rights Day

The Second Week of October, November, December — **The METHODIST PEACE COURIER appears with interpretation of issues, program suggestions, action reports**

Any day, Any week — **is a good time for all good men to come to the aid of their church peace program with a subscription to the COURIER.**

Individual subscriptions—$1.00
Group rate, 5 or more copies to one address, $ .60 each

To enrich church and community programs during the fall months, write for the new list of peace filmstrips and the list of pamphlets and books.

Copied from original in

Drew University Library
Madison, N.J. 07940

Not to be reproduced or published
without permission

AFFAIRS AFAR

American Minority

TOKYO—Rev. Dr. Homer A. Jack of Evanston and Rev. Arthur Delamarter, Methodist minister from Michigan, were two of three Americans at the Third World Conference Against A- and H-Bombs and For Disarmament, August 6 to 16. Like the Bandung Conference, this was largely ignored by the American press. The small Western delegations, Dr. Jack reports, resulted in the importance of the meeting being obscured by pro-Soviet propaganda.

Immigration Problem

PARIS—Thousands of Algerians have been swarming to France to live. There are about a hundred thousand in Paris and over two hundred thousand more in other big French cities. Superficially, they are comparable to the Puerto Ricans in New York—in both cases underprivileged citizens from over the water, entitled to free entry, speaking only their native language, usually males alone, and desperate in their search for work.

No McCarran-Walter Act?

STOCKHOLM—Sweden has become an America within Europe to which foreigners escape from political oppression, or where they are attracted by reports of good incomes. In the ten-year period, 1946 to 1956, close to 100,000 aliens received Swedish citizenship. The authorities expect a net immigration of approximately 10,000 annually in the coming decade. (For the United States this would be equivalent to about 200,000 annually.)

Casualty—Freedom of the Press

ZURICH, Switzerland—The latest report of the International Press Institute lists forty seizures of papers and other periodicals in France since January, with eight leading French journalists now awaiting trial on charges of demoralizing the Army or endangering state security because of their opposition to French policy in Algeria. The IPI also noted that in the past six months no Arab-language paper has been allowed to appear in Algeria, although Arabic is the language of 90% of the people there.

Reconciliation in the Orient

TOKYO—The fifteen Japanese Christians who went to Red China last spring give heartening reports of their month's visit. The object of the trip was to "restore . . . relations between the churches of the two countries and to share responsibility for world peace."

One delegate said that the Chinese Christians seem to be really awake to the mission and message that Christianity is life-giving to all good things, and Christian institutions are effectively cooperating with the churches. A Japanese pastor doubted that the Chinese churches are financially independent and expressed fear that the principle of separation of church and state is in danger. He observed a lack of gratitude for mission board help in the past.

The delegation was impressed by the cleanliness and the honesty of the people, the spread of education, and the improved position of women. Although there is great interest in political affairs and a zealous will for peace, there is a lot of misunderstanding about the . . . idea other nations have about world peace."

The official report of the delegation on its return to Japan concluded: "We have to try to understand each other's weaknesses and walk hand in hand, with a deep sympathy and love for mankind; and as children of God in Christ, in spiritual matters and in material matters, we must help each other bring about real self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating Christian movements in both countries."

The "Appeal to the Leaders of Nations," already signed by 640 Protestant ministers in the State of California (Methodist ministers comprising the largest group of signers), is now being circulated for nation-wide support among Protestant clergymen. Its proposal to all nations to cease atomic bomb testing is in accord and spirit with the concern expressed by the World Council of Churches departmental meetings in New Haven. The COURIER is happy to bring this important concern to your attention and to encourage all who share this point of view to immediately send their endorsement.

Date _____

Rev. Mr. John R. Shaffer
University Methodist Church
817 W. 34th Street
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Mr. Shaffer:

I am in accord with and wish to support the "Appeal to the Leaders of Nations" as printed. Add my name to the 640 California clergymen previously signed.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Church (or position) _____

APPEAL TO THE LEADERS OF NATIONS

The Gospel of Jesus Christ drives us to a concern for the welfare of every person as a son or daughter of God. We must reject any philosophy which would imply that the life of a single child in the most obscure family on earth is less precious in the sight of God because it is "statistically insignificant."

As trustees of the future we deeply believe that for us to cause any degradation of the life which God has given us to pass on, is to sin against his creation. Scientists even in their disagreement have pointed out the dangerous cumulative physical and genetic effects which past and present nuclear explosions have upon present and future generations of man.

We believe that nuclear weapons, whether used to destroy or to threaten, represent a contradiction of the way of God as revealed by Jesus. As individual American and Christian clergymen we must assume our share of the guilt for these actions, and do all we can to insure that this sin shall cease. We believe that God is able to use an act of courage and faith as a means of grace, to help us and other nations to go forward to disarmament and peace.

To continue further testing of nuclear devices is to be, as Dr. Albert Schweitzer has said ". . . committing a folly in thoughtlessness. . . ."

Therefore, as concerned Christian clergymen we call upon our government, and the other governments of the world, to proclaim, by agreement, the immediate cessation of nuclear explosions and the halting of further testing of nuclear devices now.

Further, we affirm that an international agreement to stop testing of nuclear weapons now, before man passes the point of no return in the armaments race, could serve as a first step toward a more general disarmament and the ultimate effective abolition of nuclear weapons, averting the possibility of a nuclear war that could be a catastrophe to humanity and an abomination unto God.

Copied from original in

Drew University Library
Madison, N.J. 07940

Not to be reproduced or published
without permission